

Why Nothing Changes in My Life, Part 2 - Romans 12:2 – March 10th, 2013

- Today's teaching will be the second and final part of a two part series that I've titled, "Why Nothing Changes in My Life."
- This because of what the Apostle Paul writes about not being conformed to this world, in that conforming means there's no transforming.
- Furthermore there's no transforming by virtue of the fact that it can only come by way of the renewing of our fallen minds, which proves it.
- This explains why "what I do proves what I believe." However, this presupposes I believe it is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Conversely, it also explains why some Christians just don't get it. They don't get it, because deep down inside, they don't really believe it.
- This is why some Christians live a fulfilled and joy filled Christian life, and other Christians live an unfulfilled and miserable Christian life.
- This explains why we as Christians can have all the information, all the facts and figures, all the scriptures, and never change our behavior.
- Why? The "why" question is answered with "why." More specifically, the reason why we don't do the how or the, what is, we don't believe.
- Consequently, when I don't believe I don't change. Perhaps it's better said as; knowing why I believe serves as a catalyst to how I change.
- This is why Paul says change and transformation comes by way of renewing my mind. A new way of thinking in turn changes my beliefs.
- Since change comes by the renewing of my mind, the good that I do will, in effect, become the proof of the God in Whom I will believe.
- It's been said that God won't change our hearts, until we change our minds. Could it be that this is exactly what God's perfect will is for us.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a bit because there's something here that I would like to point out concerning our decisions and behavior.
- In order to do this, I'll first give you the back-story so you have a better understanding of how powerful our minds are in deciding behavior.
- In the book of second Samuel chapter seventeen we have recorded how two men advise Absalom, who is the rebellious son of King David.
- Soon after Absalom had forced his own father out of Jerusalem he turns to the advisors for counsel on what he should do about his father.
- Sadly Absalom thinks he must make the decision to not only overthrow his father as the King of Israel but to actually kill him in the process.
- The question will become, which advisor will persuade him in giving him the reason why he should make the decision to take their advice.

2 Samuel 17:1-5 NIV Ahithophel said to Absalom, "I would choose twelve thousand men and set out tonight in pursuit of David. (2) I would attack him while he is weary and weak. I would strike him with terror, and then all the people with him will flee. I would strike down only the king (3) and bring all the people back to you. The death of the man you seek will mean the return of all; all the people will be unharmed." (4) This plan seemed good to Absalom and to all the elders of Israel. (5) But Absalom said, "Summon also Hushai the Arkite, so we can hear what he has to say."

- So after receiving counsel from Ahithophel he turns to his other advisor by the name of Hushai whose advice is found next in verses 6-13.

2 Samuel 17:6-13 NIV When Hushai came to him, Absalom said, "Ahithophel has given this advice. Should we do what he says? If not, give us your opinion." (7) Hushai replied to Absalom, "The advice Ahithophel has given is not good this time. (8) You know your father and his men; they are fighters, and as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs. Besides, your father is an experienced fighter; he will not spend the night with the troops. (9) Even now, he is hidden in a cave or some other place. If he should attack your troops first, whoever hears about it will say, 'There has been a slaughter among the troops who follow Absalom.' (10) Then even the bravest soldier, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will melt with fear, for all Israel knows that your father is a fighter and that those with him are brave. (11) "So I advise you: Let all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba—as numerous as the sand on the seashore—be gathered to you, with you yourself leading them into battle. (12) Then we will attack him wherever he may be found, and we will fall on him as dew settles on the ground. Neither he nor any of his men will be left alive. (13) If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we will drag it down to the valley until not even a piece of it can be found."

- There's a couple of things I want to point out here, the first of which is that God gave Hushai these words so as to save King David's life.
- If the truth be known, Ahithophel's advice if heeded, would have succeeded in capturing and killing David, which is what Ahithophel wanted.
- The reason for this is Ahithophel was full of bitterness and never forgave David for committing adultery with his granddaughter Bathsheba.
- Be that as it may at the end of the day it was Hushai's advice that won out for one simple reason, God inspired him to appeal to the "why."
- Conversely, Ahithophel only appealed to the "what" to do in order to kill King David, and even "how" Absalom was to go about doing it.
- In other words, he only gives him the data, the information, the facts and the figures, and because of it, he speaks only to the neo cortex.
- Hushai on the other hand, speaks to the inner limbic system which controls Absalom's behavior and decisions by using the "why" imagery.
- He says the reason why Ahithophel's advice is bad is that his father's men are fighters who're as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs.
- Another reason why is that even Absalom's bravest soldier with the heart of a lion will melt in fear when they hear there's been a slaughter.

Warren Wiersbe in his fabulous book; "Preaching and Teaching with Imagination" says it better than anyone else when he writes; "Absalom heard what Ahithophel was saying, but he saw and felt what Hushai was saying. ... Hushai turned his ears into eyes so that he could see and feel the message and respond positively to it. ... Hushai used words to paint pictures, and he hung those pictures in the gallery of Absalom's mind, pictures taken from the world that both of them knew personally. Hushai didn't invent a new world, that would be imaginary, he simply used the world that he and Absalom already knew and could imagine. ... In the United States in the '60's, the folk songs of the 'flower people' probably did more to influence government policy about Vietnam and civil rights than did all the speeches given in Congress. Why? Because, like Hushai's speech, these songs painted pictures and stirred the imagination. Songs such as 'Where Have All the Flowers Gone?' and 'Blowin' In the Wind' affected more people in a deeper way than did the press releases from the White House."

- I'll bring today's sermon in for a landing on the runway of the life changing sermon-on-the-mount that Jesus preached giving to us the why.
- That's the common thread that's woven into the fabric of the greatest sermon ever preached in the world and it's by the Savior of the world.
- What proves this is our belief in this, and in the one who preached this, by virtue of why it changes how we behave, and what we decide.

Matthew 6:25-34 NIV "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? (26) Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (27) Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (28) "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. (29) Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. (30) If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (31) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (34) Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- In this sermon Jesus is telling us "what" we shouldn't worry about in our lives namely, what we shall we eat or drink or what we shall wear.
- He tells us "how" we should not worry, namely, by knowing that if He feeds the birds and clothes the lilies how much more will he feed us.
- But He also tells us "why" we shouldn't worry about our lives saying that we are more valuable than the birds of the air and lilies of the field.

- If I will but believe that this is the reason why I can be free of worry, then I'll make the decision to change how I'll think and how I'll behave.
- However, absent the why I may rationalize it, I just don't believe it, thus nothing changes. It won't feel right under the banner of my unbelief.
- Would to God that we would change our minds; renew our minds, that He in turn might transform our life, into that joy filled Christian life.